CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of arranging user-modified variable names in a presentation list, comprising the steps of:

receiving a system request to display variables in the presentation list; and sorting the variables by giving user-named variables greater priority over systemnamed variables and then sorting by a second attribute.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of displaying the variables when a user selects the variables using a drop-down control.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of distinguishing between a user-named variable and a system-named variable.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of distinguishing is accomplished using at least one among labeling and text formatting.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the second criteria is an alphabetical order.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second criteria is a chronological order.
- 7. A system for arranging user-modified variable names in a presentation list comprises:
 - a memory; and

a processor programmed to receive a system request to display the variables from the memory in the presentation list and to sort the variables by giving user-named variables greater priority over system-named variables and then sorting by a second criteria.

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- 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further programmed to display the variables when a user selects the variables using a drop-down control.
- 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is further programmed to distinguish between a user-named variable and a system-named variable.
- 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor distinguishes between the usernamed variable and the system-named variable by using at least one among labeling and text formatting.
- 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the second criteria is an alphabetical order.
- 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the second criteria is a chronological order.
- 13. The system of claim 7, wherein the presentation list is at least one among a drop-down list and a list box.
- 14. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of receiving a system request to display variables in a presentation list and sorting the variables by giving user named variables greater priority over system named variables and then sorting by a second attribute.
- 15. The machine-readable storage of claim 14, wherein the machine-readable storage is further programmed to sort by the second criteria being an alphabetical order.
- 16. The machine-readable storage of claim 14, wherein the machine-readable storage is further programmed to sort by the second criteria being a chronological order.

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